

March 2, 1959

Dr. K. Bhaskaran
Ram-Niwas, V. S. Ram Marg
New Hyderabad
Lucknow, India

Dear Dr. Bhaskaran:

Thank you for your letter of the thirteenth.

An extensive set of reprints should have been mailed to you from Wisconsin. If you do not receive them within several weeks, please let me know.

With respect to your fertility agent, I am sure that you are aware that not all colicins are destroyed by trypsin. I would also suggest that the cross-matching test may not be the most efficient if you are dealing with a colicin. Fredericq's method can give far better results. This consists of inoculating the donor strain on nutrient agar and permitting the colonies to develop for twenty-four to forty-eight hours. The Petri plate is then inverted over a few drops of chloroform and permitted to stand for some thirty to sixty minutes in order to sterilize the donor bacteria. A thin layer of molten agar seeded with the test organisms is then poured over the plates. This test gives much more spectacular zones of inhibition than can be obtained by any other method.

Might I inquire if a range of other bacterial strains has been tested for susceptibility to the lytic action of your agent? If this is a colicin, it seems quite possible that some strains of E. coli will be found to serve as indicators also.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL:rm